

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2012**

Members Present: Thompson, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Goss, Harden, Keithley, Newman, Sarg, and Weir

Members Excused: Lank, Lardizzone, Newstadt and Wasson

Staff Present: Davila and Peterson

Introduction of Guest(s): Michelle Lee and Rhonda Martell (OMK - Operation Military Kids), Jarrod Barton (Personal Financial Counselor for the Delaware Guard and Reserve), Gary Dawson (DE AUSA), Jim Webb (Wilmington University), James Diehl (Southern Delaware Tourism), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Bettylou Evans (American Legion), Mike Rowe (LP Lo-DEL), Jerry Stauffer (DELVETS), Linda Boone and David Stroud (Home of the Brave) and Tom Kelly (MOWW) and Dave Rich (DOL)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by reporting that he visited the Home of the Brave and was very impressed with the facility.

Mr. Barton introduced himself and provided a brief synopsis of his association with the National Guard.

Mr. Dawson outlined his program and asked for support and contributions.

Mr. Diehl spoke about a couple of upcoming events that will occur in Georgetown; one of them being "The Big Missouri Barrel".

Mr. McMullen reported that their Division II Convention will be held April 20-22, 2012, at the Sheraton in Dover.

Mr. Rowe reported that the Incarcerated Veterans group at SCI is having a ceremony on April 12, 2012, at 5:30 pm, to donate their earnings to local veterans groups.

Mr. Stauffer reported that they will be honoring the Purple Heart at their Memorial Day ceremony.

Mr. Rich announced that the Middletown VFW is having their Medal of Honor ceremony on March 25, 2012, at 1:00 pm. He provided an update on the new and existing programs that the Department of Labor has in place to assist veterans.

Ms. Martel spoke about Operation Military Kids; what programs they provide and age groups the programs are targeted to serve.

Mr. Webb spoke about Operation Success Job Fair; an outreach event that will take place on April 21, 2012.

Ms. Boone thanked those who attended their first Home of the Brave Open House and introduced the new Executive Director, David Stroud. Mr. Stroud provided a short synopsis of his background and experience.

Mr. Peterson provided an update for the Delaware Veterans Home and spoke about having the Navy WAVES come down for a visit. He spoke about legislation regarding reimbursement and encouraged everyone to call their legislators and ask them to support the legislation. Mr. Davila spoke further about the issue and there was discussion concerning the Home's electronic medical system.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT FEBRUARY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,  
SECONDED BY GOSS, MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PERSONNEL**

Mr. Davila reported that the casual/seasonal and service officer positions are currently open and interviews are being scheduled.

**NORTHERN CEMETERY**

Commissioner Harden and Mr. Davila provided an update on current and future projects at the Northern Cemetery.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Commissioner Corsa reported that he and Al Weir are involved as board members for the Home of the Brave.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Commissioner Weir reported that VFW Post 4961 in Seaford honored two war time veterans. He made a fundraising plea to raise money for the Home of the Brave; specifically to build a women's homeless shelter and discussion followed.

**COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Chairman Thompson announced that DELVETS will host the Memorial Day Service on May 30, 2012, at the Delaware Memorial Bridge and KWVA will host the program at the Northern Cemetery. He mentioned that they attended an event where HB 275 was discussed.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Carroll (MOPH) – Their Department Convention will be held in June at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. He also reported that the National Veteran's Wheelchair Games will be held in Richmond, VA, from June 25-30, 2012.

Evans (American Legion) – Their National Commander was pleased with his recent visit to Delaware.

Goss (KWVA) – There will be a flag pole dedication on June 2, 2012, at the Home of the Brave, with a reception to follow.

Harden (WAVES) – She attended the meeting of the Advisory Committee at the Veterans Home on March 7, 2012, and the ribbon-cutting for the new wing at the VA Hospital. As Mr. Peterson indicated, her WAVES unit is working with him to organize a tour of the Veterans Home. Mr. Davila announced that Commissioner Harden has been appointed to another four years on the Commission.

Keithley (40 & 8) – He attended the ribbon-cutting for the new wing at the VA Hospital and he thought it was a great; great improvement.

Newman (VFW) – They will hold their testimonial dinners for the State Commander and President at the Dover Sheraton on March 31, 2012.

Sarg (MOAA) – He attended the Home of the Brave ceremony and spoke about a new computerized medical program being used at the DAFB medical facility. He spoke about a new system being implemented for separating military members to help them transition and spoke about TRICARE health care change proposals. Retiree Appreciation Day at DAFB will be held on April 21, 2012, and that evening will be their regular dinner meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      APRIL 17, 2012 (10:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                                   Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**